



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

September 25, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

MS For DLO

UPDATE: IMPERIAL INCIDENT, CITY OF HAWTHORNE

This memo is to provide your Honorable Board with an additional update on the Imperial Incident, which involved a methane gas release from a water well at the Golden State Water Company in the City of Hawthorne on September 12, 2013.

As stated in the Board memo of September 24, 2013 (attached), cement was being pumped into the water well yesterday afternoon. Another pressure test on the concrete cap would be performed after the cement cured. The test was completed this morning and was successful.

At a briefing held this morning, it was determined that the residents will now be able to reoccupy their homes. The Fire Department began notifying the residents at the conclusion of the briefing to inform them that they were now able to return to their homes. (There were a total of 28 homes and 130 residents that were evacuated.)

In lieu of a formal meeting, the residents will be meeting individually with Health Haz Mat and the Gas Company, which are currently onsite. A meeting was not held in order to allow residents to return to their homes immediately, since some residents are still at work. However, prior to entering their homes, Health Haz Mat will monitor the rooms of the residence and ensure that it is safe for entry. The Gas Company will then re-light the pilots.

After the residents are back in their homes, the Fire Department's involvement will lessen. Only Health Haz Mat will remain onsite until the conclusion of the incident.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDDORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

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September 25, 2013
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I will provide an update to your Honorable Board if the situation warrants.

DLO:mr

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka
Brence Culp
Georgia Mattera
Monica Garcia
Sergio Vasquez
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Susan Nissman
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer



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DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

September 24, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

UPDATE: IMPERIAL INCIDENT, CITY OF HAWTHORNE

This memo is to provide your Honorable Board with an additional update on the Imperial Incident, which involved a methane gas release from a water well at the Golden State Water Company in the City of Hawthorne on September 12, 2013.

As stated in the Board memo dated September 20, 2013 (attached) the pressure control company, Boots & Coots, was working that day to install a blowout preventer on the well head to prevent the escape of gas. Although problems were encountered with the parts used to assemble the blowout preventer, the problem has since been resolved. The blowout preventer was installed on Friday, September 20, 2013, and there have been no methane gas readings since then.

On Sunday, September 22, 2013, at approximately 2:00 p.m., work was stopped on the project due to Boots & Coots not following the work plan as approved by the Department of Public Health. On Monday, September 23, 2013, during a conference call with the Golden State Water Company, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the State of California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, all parties agreed to an altered work plan and work continued at the well site.

The altered work plan included the pumping of cement into the gravel layer of the well to establish a solid partition between the methane gas and the opening of the well. The first course was completed at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 2013, with another to follow once it had cured. The second course was completed at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2013.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LAKEWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	COMMERCE	GLENDALE	IRVINDALE	LAWNDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA HABRA	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
BRADBURY							WHITTIER

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Boots & Coots pressure tested the concrete cap this morning. However, it did not pass. Currently, the work crews are pumping a gel material into the well which will be followed up with another pumping of cement.

The residents will remain evacuated until this process is completed and the area is deemed safe. Health Haz Mat will remain on scene until the conclusion of the incident.

At a briefing on September 23, 2013, the following items were discussed:

- A date for next public meeting to update the citizens is still pending.
- At the meeting, the residents will be briefed on the process of reoccupying their homes.
- Prior to the residents reoccupying their homes, Health Maz Mat will monitor all the rooms in the homes and the Gas Company will re-light all the pilots prior to residents reentering.
- A doctor will explain the symptoms of methane gas exposure and answer any questions.

I will provide an update to your Honorable Board as more information becomes available.

DLO:mr

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka
Brence Culp
Georgia Mattera
Monica Garcia
Sergio Vasquez
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Susan Nissman
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer